



▶ ANNUAL CHILI
EVENT.....1



▶ SUPPORT SILAS
COLLEGIANS.....2



▶ FY16 BUDGET HEARING &
OTHER EVENTS.....3

○ ISSUE 38 | ○ VOLUME 5

Community *notes*

Greeting

There are many things happening this upcoming week.
Hope that you find something that peaks your interest.

May Kay

Bain Center Closed for Emergency Repairs

The Howard County Department of Citizen Services has announced, effective immediately, the Bain Center at 5470 Ruth Keeton Way in Columbia will be closed for at least two weeks while damage caused by a burst water pipe is repaired. All scheduled activities at the Bain Center have been cancelled.

All other Howard County senior centers are open and operating as normal. To find a senior center near you, visit the Department's Office on Aging [website](#). For questions or more information, contact the Office on Aging at 410-313-6410 (voice/relay) or email aging@howardcountymd.gov.

Harper's Choice Community Association is hosting the Tax Aide Site program at Kahler Hall while the Bain Center is closed. Please call 410-730-0770 to verify days and hours of operation.

5th Annual Chili Cook-Off

Bridges to Housing Stability hosts this annual event featuring the best chili recipes in Howard County! Visit Church of the Resurrection (3175 Paulskirk Drive, Ellicott City) on Sunday, March 8 from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. to taste a wide variety of chili recipes offered by (self named) Howard County's great cooks!

Vote (by donation) for your favorite recipe as well as other categories (e.g., Best Decorated Table). Guest 'celebrity' judges this year are County Executive Allan Kittleman, Richard Ackerman, Maitre'd, Kings Contrivance Restaurant and Ryan Wiest, Chef & Owner of Clarksville Caterers.

Bridges to Housing Stability is a non-profit organization which works diligently to prevent and reduce homelessness in Howard County.

Cultural Arts Showcase

Looking for arts and cultural programs for your school or organization? Then don't miss Howard County Art Council's 26th annual Cultural Arts Showcase on March 6 from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. This is a one-of-a-kind opportunity to preview a wide variety of performing and visual artists for residencies, workshops, and performances. Register by Monday, February 23. To register to attend the Showcase, visit the [Special Projects](#) webpage.

Summer Camp Expo

Howard County Recreation & Parks, Sytan Learning Center, Drama Learning Center and HCPSS Black Student Achievement are among the organizations that are participating in a Summer Camp and Enrichment Program Expo on Thursday, February 26, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. at the North Laurel Community Center (9411 Whiskey Bottom Road, Laurel).

This event is hosted by the Laurel Woods Elementary School PTA and will feature onsite registration and information presented by representatives of each organization participating. Some organizations will offer discounts for summer camps.

The Challenges of Parenting an Adolescent

The transition into adolescence can pose challenges as the area of the teen brain governing judgment, emotional regulation, impulse control and self awareness is in a constant state of development. This change can be very frustrating for parents as the rules of the relationship with their growing children keep shifting and expectations need adjustment.

On Tuesday, March 3, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., learn why teens do what they do, as well as how to channel their impulses into safer and saner activities. The event is \$8 per person and will take place at 3300 North Ridge Road, #360, Ellicott City. Click [here](#) to register.

Silas Craft Collegians Fundraiser

Join the Howard Community College Foundation for its annual fundraiser in support of the Silas Craft Collegians on Monday, March 9, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Hunan Manor (7091 Deepage Drive, Columbia). Tickets are \$45 per person and include entrees, beverages, dessert, tax and gratuity.

Another option to support the Silas Craft Collegians is to take a chance at winning a [beautiful Pandora sterling silver bracelet](#) donated by the [PANDORA Store](#), The Mall in Columbia. Bracelet raffle tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. To purchase event and/or raffle tickets, click [here](#).

Vendors Sought for Culture Fest

Columbia Association (CA) is seeking musicians, bands, exhibitors, performers and food vendors for the upcoming “South American Culture Fest”. This free family event will be held Sunday, April 26, 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. at Miller Branch Library, 9421 Frederick Road. The Culture Fest is a great place to participate in an afternoon of music — from Colombian Cumbia to Brazilian Samba — showcase dance performances, educational displays and show Howard County what makes their countries and cultures unique.

Representatives from all of the Spanish-, Portuguese-, English-, French- and Dutch-speaking countries that make up South America are invited to participate. The highlighted countries include: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela, as well as the two territories of French Guiana and the Falkland Islands. Exhibitors may not sell items or services unless they are food vendors selling food. There will be no payment for performances.

Photos of the exhibitors, performers and audience members will be taken at the event. Families attending the event will be able to pick up a “Culture Fest Passport” and complete it for door prizes by visiting exhibitors’ tables.

Interested parties should contact Laura Smit, program manager for CA’s International Exchange and Multicultural Programs, by calling 410-715-3162 or sending an email to International@ColumbiaAssociation.org.

Learn to Combat Plant Invaders

Interested in learning how to reduce the number of invasive plants in your yard and our community?

Davey Rogner, MPEA's Invasive Species Project Manager and Executive Director of The Harvest Collective, will be at The Hawthorn Center on February 24, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. to talk about the different invasive species that impact the MPEA and how the MPEA is working to remove them. He will also share several ways that individuals can help alleviate the problem at MPEA and improve the ecological health of their own backyards. Click [here](#) to register for the event.

Collision Avoidance Training - Register Today

The Howard County Police Department will conduct the Collision Avoidance Training (C.A.T.) program beginning in March. This is an advanced defensive driving and vehicle control program for licensed teenage drivers 16-20 years old. The one day program (8.5 hours) is designed to provide young drivers with the knowledge and understanding of vehicle dynamics.

The first section of the program is devoted to two hours of classroom instruction. The second section consists of six hours of behind-the-wheel training. This course provides practical exercises that demonstrate how the vehicle responds in a given situation and how to regain control of the vehicle. The driving skills addressed in the program are: evasive maneuvers, threshold/emergency braking, forward serpentine, cornering, backing, reverse serpentine, and skid and off-road recovery.

During the behind-the-wheel training, students operate their own vehicles. Prior to the start of the training, each vehicle is inspected by an instructor to ensure that the vehicle is in good operational condition. Then each student, accompanied by an instructor (Howard County Police Officer), begins practicing the different driving skills/maneuvers.

The scheduled dates for 2015 are: March 14, April 25, May 16, June 27, July 25, August 22, September 19, October 17, November 21 and December 12. The cost to each student is \$95.00.

Any questions or inquiries may be directed to:

Ms. Jessica Beram— C.A.T. Coordinator

JBeram@howardcountymd.gov

Howard County Police Department

Special Operations Bureau

11226 Scaggsville Road

Laurel, Maryland 20723

410-313-3700 / 410-313-3758

Vendors, Exhibitors Sought for Howard County's 7th annual WomenFest

Do you offer products and/or services that promote health, wellness, fashion and beauty and are designed to inspire women to live a more balanced, healthy and fulfilled life? If so, then be sure to apply for a spot at this year's Department of Citizen Services' **WomenFest**. Back for its 7th consecutive year, this signature wellness event for women will be held on **Saturday, April 25 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** at the Gary J. Arthur Community Center in Glenwood, 2400 Route 97 in Cooksville. Admission and parking are free.

Coordinated by the Department's Office on Aging, last year's WomenFest attracted 600 participants and more than 100 vendors and exhibitors. This year's event will feature an interactive day with free health screenings and engaging seminars and workshops on topics including self-defense, painting on canvas, heart health, financial wellness and keeping relationships strong.

This year's keynote address – **"Build Your Healthy Tomorrow, Today!"** – will be presented by **Lynne Brick, President of Brick Bodies Fitness Services, Inc.** This motivating and inspiring presentation will help attendees focus on their journey to health and happiness in three easy steps.

Vendor and exhibitor applications, sponsorship opportunities and full event details are available [online](#). Applications may be faxed to 410-313-5950 or mailed to: WomenFest 2015, c/o Donna Tugwell, Howard County Office on Aging, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 211, Columbia, MD 21046. For more information about WomenFest, visit the event's [website](#), follow the Department's [Facebook page](#) or contact Courtney Barkley at 410-313-5957 or cbarkley@howardcountymd.gov.

Hiring Event

Columbia Association (CA) will host an open hiring event for its fitness facilities on Saturday, March 14, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at CA Headquarters, 10221 Wincopin Circle, in Downtown Columbia.

CA is looking for outgoing, energetic, and motivated individuals to join its fitness club teams. Open positions include personal trainers, group fitness instructors, front desk, managers on duty, housekeeping, and fitness club attendants. Attendees interested in teaching group fitness should come prepared to do a brief teaching demo. A stereo will be available for music.

For more information, please email Leslie.Flynn@ColumbiaAssociation.org or call 410-730-6744.

Reminders: Events and More

Summer Camps

Registration has begun for Howard County Arts Council's Visual and Performing Arts Summer Camps! Sign up today and choose from an exciting range of creative experiences for your child. Camps are open to students entering grades K–7. Full- or half-day sessions and before- and after-care are available. For complete details or to register, visit the [Summer Camp](#) page

Planning Board Public Hearing

The Howard County Planning Board will receive testimony at a public hearing on the FY 2016 Capital Budget and FY 2017-2025 Capital Improvement Program Thursday, February 26, 2015 beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Banneker Room of the George Howard Building (3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043). Click [here](#) to find the agenda items online.

Tax Preparation Assistance

Making Change Howard County is hosting free tax preparation for qualified persons at the Multi-use Service Center (9900 Washington Boulevard, Laurel) through April 11, 2015. Visit the [website](#) for more information and to book an appointment.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide in conjunction with the IRS, offers free assistance to low & moderate income taxpayers, with special attention to those 60 and older. Appointments are required. For more information and other resources, visit the [webpage](#) for the latest edition of Senior Connection.

Celebrate the Arts

Celebration of the Arts in Howard County takes place on Saturday, March 28 at 6:00 p.m. in the Horowitz Visual and Performing Arts Center, HCC. Tickets are \$100 and \$50 [online](#), by phone at 410-313-ARTS (2787), or in the office at Howard County Arts Council, 8510 High Ridge Road, Ellicott City, MD 21043.



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